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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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WASHINGTON, December 13 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 8 totaled an estimated 18.1 billion ton-miles, 4.4 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 49 weeks of 1979 was an estimated 855 billion ton-miles, 5.6 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended December 8 totaled 472,045 cars, 1.4 percent below 1978, but 0.4 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 9.2 percent in the West, but down 13.1 percent in the East, and 2.7 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1978, 14 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, grain loadings were up 9,427 cars, or 36.8 percent and coal increased 1,384 cars, or 1.3 percent. Ten of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

## Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended December 1 totaled 35,392 cars, down 0.1 percent from the corresponding week of 1978, and 62,002 trailers and/or containers, 8.5 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 48 weeks of the year was 1,724,867 cars, 1.4 percent higher than last year, and 3,043,690 trailers and/or containers, up 3.6 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/8.[1]

| | Loadings in Week ended December 8, 1979 | Change from Corresponding Week 1978 | | Change from Preceding Week | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cars | Cars | Percent | Cars | Percent |
| Grain | 35,027 | I 9,427 | 36.8 | I 950 | 2.8 |
| Other farm products | 6,213 | D 1,201 | 16.2 | D 527 | 7.8 |
| Metallic ores | 32,180 | D 486 | 1.5 | D 3,226 | 9.1 |
| Coal | 109,339 | I 1,384 | 1.3 | I 2,047 | 1.9 |
| Crushed stone, gravel and sand | 14,828 | D 2,200 | 12.9 | D 379 | 2.5 |
| Nonmetallic minerals | 14,014 | I 352 | 2.6 | D 1,592 | 10.2 |
| Grain mill products | 19,190 | D 342 | 1.8 | I 1,221 | 6.8 |
| Food and kindred products | 19,397 | I 529 | 2.8 | I 629 | 3.4 |
| Primary forest products | 21,361 | I 18 | 0.1 | I 210 | 1.0 |
| Lumber and wood products except furniture | 10,063 | D 1,908 | 15.9 | I 53 | 0.5 |
| Pulp, paper and allied products | 22,081 | I 987 | 4.7 | D 109 | 0.5 |
| Chemicals and allied products | 28,476 | I 628 | 2.3 | D 928 | 3.2 |
| Petroleum products | 6,451 | D 554 | 7.9 | D 4 | 0.1 |
| Stone, clay and glass products | 17,097 | D 877 | 4.9 | D 379 | 2.2 |
| Coke | 5,847 | D 1,586 | 21.3 | D 465 | 7.4 |
| Metals and products | 17,151 | D 2,909 | 14.5 | D 1,422 | 7.7 |
| Motor vehicles and equipment | 21,647 | D 4,958 | 18.6 | I 2,336 | 12.1 |
| Waste and scrap materials | 13,527 | D 884 | 6.1 | I 659 | 5.1 |
| Forwarder and shipper association traffic | 12,228 | D 72 | 0.6 | I 566 | 4.9 |
| All other carloads | 45,656 | D 1,555 | 3.3 | I 2,510 | 5.8 |
| LCL traffic | 272 | D 282 | 50.9 | D 80 | 22.7 |
| Total Cars Loaded | 472,045 | D 6,489 | 1.4 | I 2,070 | 0.4 |
| Corresponding week of 1978 | 478,534 | | | | |

| | 1979 | 1978 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Cars Loaded (49 weeks) | 22,656,248 | 22,100,655 | I 2.5 |
| Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions): | | | |
| 48 weeks cumulative | 836.8 (Revised) | 792.5 | I 5.6 |
| Week ended December 8 | 18.1 | 17.4 | I 4.4 |
| 49 weeks cumulative | 855.0 | 809.9 | I 5.6 |

[1] The figures above include 12 railroads no longer considered Class I roads when the qualifying requirement for Class I companies was raised by the ICC from $10 million to $50 million in annual operating revenues as of January 1, 1978.

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